

ALASKA FARM REPORTER

Alaska Division of Agriculture
Alaska Cooperative Extension
Ag & Forestry Experiment Station



ALASKA
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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National Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 799
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January 22, 2001

HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 1, 2001 **POTATO** STOCKS WERE 70 PERCENT OF THE 2000 CROP

DECEMBER **MILK** OUTPUT UP 7 PERCENT FROM NOVEMBER

PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF **2000 MILK PRODUCTION** DECREASED FROM 1999

HOGS AND PIGS WERE DOWN 43 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

U.S. OATS IN STORAGE ON DECEMBER 1, 2000 TOTALED 144 MILLION BUSHEL

U.S. BARLEY IN STORAGE TOTALED 229 MILLION BUSHEL ON DECEMBER 1, 2000

U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX FOR DECEMBER UNCHANGED FROM NOVEMBER

U.S. PRICES PAID INDEX WAS UNCHANGED FROM NOVEMBER

POTATO STOCKS

ALASKA: January 1, 2001 potato stocks totaled 89,800 cwt, compared with 146,000 cwt on hand a year ago. The remaining stocks were 70 percent of the 2000 crop. The five year average stocks on hand January 1 is 122,900 cwt. Disappearance since December 1 was 13,700 cwt compared with the average 12,300 cwt. Disappearance since the start of the harvest season to January 1 totaled 39,200 cwt versus 39,000 cwt a year earlier.

15 MAJOR STATES: Potato stocks were estimated at a record 273 million cwt on January 1, 2001, up 14 percent from a year ago and 4 percent above the previous record set in 1997. Storage accounted for 59 percent of 2000 fall production, up 2 percent from last year. Disappearance, at a record high 189 million cwt, is up 5 percent from last year and 4 percent above the previous record high in 1996.

WESTERN STATES held 200 million cwt of potatoes on January 1, 2001, up 17 percent from the last year and 16 percent above two years ago. Washington's potato stocks were up 32 percent from a year ago, while Idaho stocks were up 16 percent and Oregon's were up 12 percent. Colorado was up 2 percent and Montana gained 5 percent. California's stocks were down 22 percent from a year ago.



MILK PRODUCTION

ALASKA: Milk produced in December totaled 1,160,000 pounds, 15 percent above last year and 7 percent above November. Production per cow was 1,050 pounds, down 30 pounds from the November and compares with 1,130 pounds a year ago. Milk cows at 1,100 head were up 200 head from 1999.

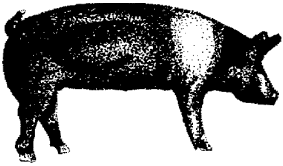
The preliminary estimate for 2000 milk production is 13,069,000 pounds. This is 511,000 pounds below the 13,580,000 pounds produced in 1999.

SELECTED STATES: The 20 Major States produced 11.9 billion pounds during December, unchanged from production in these same States in December 1999. Production per cow averaged 1,522 pounds, 16 pounds below December 1999.

The preliminary estimate for 2000 **U. S. milk production** is 168 billion pounds, up 3.2 percent from the 1999 production.

The December **milk-feed** price ratio at 3.04 compares with 3.03 in November and 3.24 in December 1999.

HOGS AND PIGS



ALASKA: Inventory of all hogs and pigs on hand December 1, 2000 was 800 head, down from 1,400 head a year ago. Breeding hogs at 200 head were down 100 head from a year ago and market hogs at 600 head, were down 500 head from 1999. The 2000 pig crop (December 1999 through November 2000) totaled 1,600 head, down from 2,900 head a year ago.

UNITED STATES: Inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2000 was 59.8 million head. This was 1 percent above December 1999 but slightly below September 1, 2000 inventory. Breeding inventory, at 6.28 million head was up 1 percent from December 1, 1999 and up slightly from September 1, 2000. Market hog inventory, at 53.6 million head, was 1 percent above last year but slightly below last quarter. The number of operations with hogs totaled 85,760 during 2000, down 13 percent from last year and 25 percent below 1998.

U. S. GRAIN STOCKS

Barley stored in all positions on December 1, 2000 totaled 229 million bushels, less than 1 percent above last year. Of the total barley stocks on hand, 112 million bushels are stored on farms, 3 percent above a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 117 million bushels, were 2 percent below last year. Indicated disappearance during the September-November quarter totaled 65 million bushels, 3 percent lower than the same period last year.

Oats stored in all positions on December 1, 2000 totaled 144 million bushels, up 8 percent from a year earlier. Of the total stocks on hand, 86.9 million bushels are stored on farms, 9 percent above the same quarter last year. Stocks held in off-farm storage facilities totaled 57.4 million bushels, 6 percent above a year ago. The indicated September-November disappearance totaled 6.1 million bushels compared to 14.8 for the same period a year ago.

2000 U.S. CROP SUMMARY

ALL HAY production for 2000 was estimated at 152 million tons, down slightly from the October 1 forecast and down 5 percent from the 1999 total. Acreage harvested, at 59.9 million, was down 3 percent from the October forecast and down 5 percent from 1999. The average yield, at 2.54 tons per acre, was up 0.06 tons from the October forecast and up 0.01 ton from the previous year.

OATS: Production for the 2000 crop year totaled 149.2 million bushels, 2 percent above the 1999 production. The estimated yield at 64.2 bushels per acre is 8 percent higher than last year. Area harvested for grain in 2000 is 2.32 million acres, 5 percent below 1999. This continues the steady downward trend and breaks last year's record as the smallest acreage harvested for grain on record.

BARLEY production in 2000 was estimated at 320 million bushels, up 3 percent from last forecast and up 14 percent from last year's estimate. Average yield per acre, at 61.4 bushels, is up 2.2 bushels from 1999. The area harvested for grain is estimated at 5.21 million acres, 10 percent above a year ago.

U.S. AGRICULTURAL PRICES

The All Farm Products Index of **PRICES RECEIVED** in December was 98 based on 1990-92=100, unchanged from the November index. Higher prices for soybeans, cattle, hogs, and eggs were offset by lower prices for broilers, lettuce, turkeys, and cauliflower. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of tobacco, wheat, milk, and broilers were offset by lower marketings of cattle, soybeans, grapes, and corn.

Compared with December 1999, the All Farm Products Index was 7 points (7.7 percent) higher. Price increases from December 1999 for cotton, cattle, eggs, and hogs were partially offset by lower prices for broilers, apples, oranges, and lemons.

FEED GRAINS AND HAY: The December index was 88, up 3.5 percent from last month and 7.3 percent above December 1999. The corn price, at \$1.91 per bushel, was up 5 cents from November and 9 cents above the December 1999 price. The all hay price, at \$85.10 per ton, was 10 cents above last month and \$13.10 above December 1999. Grain sorghum, at \$3.35 per cwt, was up 8 cents from November and 73 cents above December last year.

MEAT ANIMALS: The December index, at 95, was up 3.3 percent from last month and 8.0 percent from a year earlier. The December hog price was \$40.60 per cwt, up \$4.20 from November and \$5.00 from a year ago. November hog slaughter was down 1 percent from October and 2 percent from a year earlier. The December beef cattle price of \$71.20 was up \$2.10 from last month and \$4.60 from December 1999. November cattle slaughter was down 7 percent from October.

A BIG THANK YOU!

The Staff of Alaska Agricultural Statistics Service would like to **THANK ALL THOSE PRODUCERS** who took the time to give us sheep and cattle information. Your help is GREATLY appreciated. We would like to wish all Alaskan Farmers and those associated with agriculture, a joyous and prosperous New Year!

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